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**APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF BRAZIL**

IPF:(1992-1996) $14 183 000

**(BRA/92/019)- Strategic Development of Informatics**

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| Date of approval by the AC:[1] | 7 October 1992 |
| Expected duration: | Three years and six months |
| Proposed executing agency: | Government |
| Government implementing agency: | CNPQ, Universities and Research Institutes, Private Sector |
| Proposed UNDP contribution: | $ 1 080 000 Source of funds:IPF |
| Government cost sharing: | $ 27 000 000 |
| Total UNDP budget: | $ 28 080 000 |

## Project background

The computer industry in Brazil is of strategic importance to the country. It contributes two percent of the GNP with a gross internal product of (US)$ 7000 million. The Government strategy is shifting rapidly from traditional import substitution to international competitiveness. Under this circumstances, it sees its comparative advantage in the production of software, supported by a promising communications infrastructure. The goal for Brazil is to make up one to two percent of world-wide sales for software by the year 2000.

To favour competitiveness, there is a need to coordinate research and support export promotion for software, through linkages between the academic community, the private sector and the Government, in the context of the Brazilian National Plan for the Computer Industry. To carry out this plan the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) plays a critical role, as the main funding agency for the country's R&D activities.

The project has been appraised by an independent international consultant who concluded that "there is every likelihood of a software industry emerging in Brazil that is capable of competing in world markets and the proposed project will contribute significantly to this objective".

## Description of project

The project is related to areas #1 and #2 of the Fifth Country Programme for Brazil,

[1] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

namely "education, science and technology" and "modernization of the productive sector". Its immediate objectives cover: (i) Inter-institutional coordination of the three main programmes of the National Plan for the Computer Industry; (ii) Development of a nationwide network supporting multiple protocols and offering basic INTERNET services and gateways to other networks and services; and (iii) Research projects by Universities and R&D institutions, with special emphasis in networking infrastructure and software for export, in support of the Government's SOFT-EXPORT 2000 PROGRAM.

The main outputs are expected to reflect: (1) a defined strategy for the Strategic Development of Informatics in Brazil for the period 1995-2000; (2) implementation and operation of a backbone informatic network connecting mayor governmental institutions and private sector organizations involved in Science and Technology; (3) funding and implementation of relevant software development R&D projects geared towards the export markets; and (4) institutionalization of coordination mechanisms between the Government, educational institutions and the private sector involved in the Brazilian informatics industry.

Success indicators will include: (a) interconnection of the main universities with regional networks in at least ten states; (b) incorporation of at least five more graduate courses in computer science; and (c) implementation of at least fifty research projects on strategic themes and the achievement of a one percent target of world-wide sales of software.

At the end of the project, it is expected to have successfully contributed to changing the focus of the computer industry from hardware to software production, and from the domestic to the international market.

## Inputs

UNDP will provide 210 work-months of international consultancies in software development, marketing and networking; 72 work-months for two national consultants in networking and software; 720 work-months for technicians in each strategic area; 360 work-months of national consultancies in network, software and research themes; 370 work-months of subcontracts in software development and marketing, international connections and networking; computer training; specialized computer equipment, software, communication devices and office equipment.

## Financial data

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| Personnel | 5 502 000 |
| Subcontract | 2 587 000 |
| Training | 1 947 000 |
| Equipment | 15 215 000 |
| Miscellaneous | 2 829 000 |
| Total | 28 080 000 |

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